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SECRET

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3/9/60

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|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| DISPATCH | | CLASSIFICATION SECRET | DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO 22 HZPA-9938 |
| TO | Chief, WJ Division | | HEADQUARTERS FILE NO |
| INFO | Chief of Station, Habana | | 19-500 |
| FROM | Chief of Station, ¹⁶⁻⁷ Panama City | DATE 10 OCT 1959 | |
| SUBJECT | Activities of Juan Emilio NUNEZ Portuondo, Cuban Exile and Opposition Leader | | RE "33" - (CHECK "X" ONE) |
| ACTION REQUIRED | None; for information | | MARKED FOR INDEXING |
| REFERENCES | | | NO INDEXING REQUIRED |
| | | | INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY |
| | <p>2-1-45667 C.C. La.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Juan Emilio NUNEZ Portuondo, Cuban politician and diplomat during the regime of Fulgencio BATISTA, who is now in exile and regarded as a leader of the opposition to the revolutionary government of Fidel CASTRO Ruz, came to Panama from Lima on 10 October 1959 and left for Guatemala on 19 October 1959. 2. The sensationalist press notices (Attachment A) that appeared in <u>La Nacion</u>, a Panama City daily tabloid whose oppositionist policies carry over to pro-CASTRO/Cuban revolution editorial comment and reporting, constitute the extent of local publicity for NUNEZ Portuondo's visit here. However, the local ODIBEX intelligence reporting unit acquired, and reported on 27 October 1959 to its superior office, this office, and local ODACID, information (Attachment B) attributed directly to NUNEZ Portuondo. 3. It undoubtedly was NUNEZ Portuondo's sojourn in Panama and his meeting with government officials that contributed to expressions of concern by ^{16-7, 05} [Station liaison] sources over Cuban policy toward Panama. One manifestation of that concern was a report (Attachment C) that the head of the ⁰¹ [redacted] of HYFRACE addressed to the Minister of Government and Justice. 4. When ⁰¹ [HYPOTHESIS-8] passed ¹⁶⁻⁷ [the Station] a copy of ²⁷ [his chief's] report, he said that the source of the information was SANCHEZ (fnu) whom he described as a BATISTA exile living in Panama City; and SANCHEZ' source was a person who travels between Panama and Cuba. When passing the report, ⁰¹ [HYPOTHESIS-8] said also that SANCHEZ had a connection with NUNEZ Portuondo whom the [HYFRACE] organization regarded as the head of the Cuban opposition, and that NUNEZ Portuondo had informed President Ernesto DE LA GUARDIA Jr. and Hector VALDES Ferrabone, Minister of Government and Justice, that strong action against Panama was being planned in Cuba. After an initial and several follow-up queries to [HYPOTHESIS-8] for identification of SANCHEZ, ¹⁶⁻⁷ [HYPOTHESIS-8] after several days of checking, affirmed that he had learned that the person in question was Jose SANCHEZ Ramirez, whom ¹⁶⁻⁰⁷ [Station] records show is a former lieutenant in the Cuban National Police, who came to Panama on 19 January 1959 (reported in: [PACY] 4303). | | |
| <p style="text-align: right;">^{24,01} Edward G. Bensing Edward G. Bensing</p> <p>9 November 1959</p> <p>Attachments: A,B,C, (as noted)</p> <p>Distribution: 3-Hqrs w/atts. A,B,C. 1-COS Habana w/atts. A,B,C. 2-Files w/atts. A,B,C.</p> <p>EGT/vqs</p> | | | |
| <p>FORM 53</p> <p>CLASSIFIED</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL</p> | | | |

13/RS
12/90

La Nación

Martes 22 de Octubre de 1958 No. 8493 Panama N. de P. C.

**Panamá Es Ahora
El Centro De La**

Contrarevolución

CONTRA FIDEL CASTRO

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**Núñez Portuondo Organizó Aquí
El Movimiento Contra F. Castro**

La ciudad de Panamá ha sido escogida como eje o centro de la contrarevolución cubana, dirigida por el conocido líder batistiano Emilio Núñez Portuondo, según datos logrados y confirmados hoy por "La Nación".

El señor Núñez Portuondo, ampliamente conocido en Panamá, donde actuó como Embajador de Cuba durante varios años, permaneció siete días como Lucapod del Hotel El Panamá, dentro del más riguroso incógnito, aunque tuvo oportunidad de establecer contacto con cierto sector de la prensa nacional que nunca ha demostrado simpatía hacia la revolución del Dr. Fidel Castro en la república antillana.

Personas conocedoras de la situación política cubana consideran que la presión del Gobierno de Washington ha logrado eliminar a la ciudad de Miami como centro de conspiración contra el actual Gobierno de Cuba por lo que en su lugar se escogió a Panamá.

Como es natural, se supone que nuestro Gobierno y sobre todo los servicios de inteligencia de la Guardia Nacional y la Secretaría estuvieron enterados de la presencia en nuestra capital y de las actividades desarrolladas por el señor Núñez Portuondo.

1/20

Potentes Emisoras

SE INSTALARAN EN PANAMA PARA COMBATIR AL GOBIERNO DE CUBA

C

Por otra parte, se recalco que contactos llegados anteriormente a Panamá, iniciaron gestiones para la compra de dos fincas, una de las cuales estaria ubicada en Chiriqui y la otra en la región de Sorá, población situada en el ex-regimiento de Bejuco.

Las fuentes informantes dijeron que filtraciones emanadas de los recién llegados, indican que hay la intención de dedicar esas fincas, aparentemente al cultivo de tabaco, pero que la intención real es la de ubicar dos potentes emisoras desde la cual iniciar la campaña travada por Núñez Portuondo contra el gobierno revolucionario de Cuba.

Alrededor de dieciséis personas —prominentes figuras durante la dictadura de Batista— arribaron antier a Panamá. Fuentes extraoficiales informaron que entre esas personas se encuentra el famoso torturador Ventura, quien se dejó entrever es el jefe del grupo recién llegado.

La llegada del grupo en referencia tiene, según los informantes, relación con la campaña travada por el ex-embajador Núñez Portuondo para combatir el régimen de Fidel Castro, labor que dejara lista durante su incógnita permanencia como huésped del Hotel Panamá Hilton.

Pasa a la Pág. 14 Letra G

La Nación

Jueves 22 de Octubre, de 1960. No. 6100 Panamá R. de P. C.

(c) On 25 October 1959, confidential sources of W's office held an interview with Dr. Emilio BARRERO, leader of the Cuban exiles. Also present was Mr. Rafael Garcia Navarro, Cuban son-in-law of Nurex and honorary Consul of Panama in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The following information was furnished by BARRERO during the interview:

Dr. BERNZ initiated the conversation by stating that HE had just completed a tour of Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil during which HE established personal contact with the Presidents, Armed Forces' leaders, and other personalities of the aforementioned countries in an effort to enlist their moral and material support in his endeavors.

In Peru, President Manuel Prado informed Dr. MUNEL that his Government is very perturbed by the activities of the Cuban diplomats in Peru. The Peruvian Government was able to determine that a recent strike staged by bank workers received financial support from the Cuban Embassy in Lima.

In Chile, President Jorge Alessandri complained of meddling by Cuban diplomats in the labor and peasant movements of that country.

President Arturo Frondizi of Argentina advised Dr. HANEY that the repercussions of the Cuban revolution are already being felt in that country, especially among students, peasants and workers. The Argentine Secretary of War, General (Ret.) Alberto Larcker, told Dr. HANEY that, in his opinion, the United States has but two choices in Cuba: To get rid of the Fidel Castro regime now, by force if necessary; or fight Soviet troops on Cuban soil in the future.

The Brazilian President, Juscelino Kubitschek, expressed alarm for the inability of the United States Government to dispose of the present Cuban regime, which is the main source of unrest in the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. EARTH stated that the Presidents of the above-mentioned countries and their military and diplomatic leaders indicated that they are willing to support the United States in any move, whether it be military, diplomatic or economic, that would eradicate forever the threat of Communism as represented by the Fidel Castro regime.

Dr. HECZ continued by saying that he has an appointment with the President of Panama, Ernesto de la Guardia, Jr., in which he would inform the President that preparations are being made in Cuba for a new invasion of Panama. This time the invaders will be better equipped and organized than during the ill-fated landing at Playa Colorado in April 1979.

SUBJECT: MUJER Portuondo, Dr. Emilio (U)
801-901-99

27 Oct 59

In regard to the internal situation in Cuba, Dr. MUJER stated that the country is under the tightest of dictatorships. Free enterprise is fast disappearing and state-controlled economy is taking its place. Anti-United States propaganda is evident everywhere. Soviet agents are operating freely throughout the country and are openly infiltrating the Armed Forces, Government agencies and the propaganda media. The Cuban capital has become the new headquarters of the Soviet apparatus whose aim is to subvert all of Latin America.

Dr. MUJER further stated that he is continuously furnishing information pertaining to the Communist activities in Cuba to OS-CUB, but this agency does not seem to realize the gravity of the situation. He expressed disappointment for the lack of assistance HE is receiving from ODACID. However, HIS contacts with representatives of KUBARK, ODENVY and ODEARL have been more encouraging.

The anti-Castro organization which Dr. MUJER heads has 20,000 partisans inside Cuba waiting for weapons with which to start a revolt. The great majority of these partisans are former members of the disbanded Cuban Regular Armed Forces. Dr. MUJER's organization has sufficient funds to purchase enough weapons in Spain to arm these groups; however, the Spanish Government will not release the weapons until the United States Government gives its approval.

The French Government has offered Dr. MUJER facilities to train personnel in the islands of Martinique or Guadalupe in the French West Indies. The Governments of Guatemala and Panama have also made similar offers. However, Dr. MUJER believes that any armed invasion of Cuba at the present time is bound to fail because the Cuban people are being thoroughly indoctrinated and subjected to a very intensive propaganda program by the Castro regime, while the opposition has been completely gagged. Dr. MUJER further stated that he also believes that any revolt will fail unless the Cuban people are made cognizant of what is going on behind the scenes and the threat that the Communist infiltration means to Cuba and her future. Dr. MUJER said that, prior to any military operation, the Cuban people must be subjected to a continuous counter-propaganda barrage, in which the activities of the Soviet agents and their protectors and collaborators are exposed. This propaganda must also attempt to destroy the myth which has been created around Fidel Castro's personality. In order to accomplish this project, Dr. MUJER's organization needs urgently a radio station powerful enough to cover the entire Cuban territory. The Government of the Dominican Republic, through its radio stations, is already conducting that type of propaganda. However, the Dominican efforts are ineffective because of the contempt in which the Cubans hold anything Dominican and, therefore, the propaganda originating in the Dominican Republic is self-defeating.

The Governments of Guatemala and Panama have offered Dr. MUJER their assistance in operating this radio station from their territory. However, Panama has been ruled out because of its proximity to the United States positions in the Canal Zone. Dr. MUJER does not desire to use radio facilities within the continental United States to preclude HIS organization being branded as a tool of the United States or any international embarrassment to the United States Government. The ideal solution to this problem would be a 50,000 watt short wave radio transmitter installed aboard a ship similar to those used by the Voice of America in its broadcast beamed to the Iron Curtain countries.

(B-3)

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ATTACHMENT B TO 22 HZPA-9938

1/80

SUBJECT: BUREZ Portuondo, Dr. Emilio (U)
801-501-99

27 Oct 99

(C) This meeting was effected at the suggestion of Dr. Bernardo Careme, Minister of Justice during the administration of deposed Cuban President Fulgencio Batista. Dr. Careme is residing as an exile in Panama. (A-1)

(U) QP, USASCARIS COMMENT: Dr. Emilio BUREZ Portuondo is a son of the late General Emilio Bures, one of the heroes of the Cuban revolutionary wars against Spain. Dr. BUREZ has been a Congressman and a Senator in Cuba several times, Ambassador to Panama, and Chief of the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations from 1952 to 1956. He was President of the Security Council during the Hungarian revolt.

22 October 1959

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

We have learned from a good and reliable source that the Cuban government is thinking of discharging 5,000 members of the revolutionary army at the end of November or beginning of December 1959. The end purpose of this is to have the discharged men take part in invasions of Panama and the Dominican Republic; the Cuban government could not be blamed for such actions, since the men would not be members of the regular Cuban Army. The invasions will be carried out simultaneously, in order to obstruct any quick action by the Organisation of American States (OAS). The same source indicates that 3,000 well-armed men will take part in the invasion of Panama, and that the men will come here under the command of Commander Ernesto ("Che") GUEVARA, who it appears received precise instructions while on his trip to Egypt. It appears that intentions are first to take over Panama, and, after that, to undertake an international campaign for NATIONALIZING the Panama Canal. For the latter campaign, they will have the support of several Latin American and several European countries, as well as of several Panamanian political groups, including the Tercer Partido Nacionalista which already has declared itself in that regard. The same source indicates that, before the invasions come about, there will be an open publicity campaign to pave the way and to produce internal upheavals in Panama and the Dominican Republic. It appears that the invasions will receive material, financial, and other support from the Venezuelan government.

NOTE: This information can be verified by FBPRIME intelligence services and FIACID offices in the countries concerned. In time, it will be seen if the actions noted at the beginning of this report have happened, and, if so, it will indicate that the rest will come about in due course. The informant tells us that Cuba, Venezuelan, and Panamanian Communists will take a very active part in everything.

CONFIDENTIAL

201-45667